

## Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



**Lodge Manufacturing Company**  
**P.O. Box 380**  
**South Pittsburg, TN 37380**  
**423-837-7180**  
[www.lodgemfg.com](http://www.lodgemfg.com)



### Cardboard Recycling

#### The Member

Lodge Manufacturing Company is a fourth generation family owned cast iron cookware manufacturer employing 182 people in South Pittsburg, Tennessee. The 106-year-old company manufactures over 200 quality cookware items.

#### The Story

Lodge Manufacturing began cardboard recycling by allowing outside recyclers pick up the cardboard at no charge as available. This was allowed in order to divert the cardboard from disposal in the county landfill. As the prices of recycled cardboard would drop, the availability of operators that would pick up the waste product dropped off as well. One waste recycler company eventually placed a trailer at a dock door that the packing department could load and the recycler would exchange with an empty once full. As the cardboard price dropped again, the recycler was forced to charge a trailer rental in order to maintain the trucks on site. When the cost of the manpower required for handling the cardboard was calculated, it became readily apparent that the company could reclaim lost revenue in material handling by baling the waste cardboard.

#### The Success

Lodge contracted with Rock-Tenn Company Recycled Fiber Division, Chattanooga Recycled Fiber, to install a rental baler so that the company could bale cardboard on site and sell the product to Rock-Tenn. In 2001, Lodge recycled 34.52 tons of cardboard and mixed paper. The return on cardboard plus the savings on disposal cost of \$25 per ton plus hauling bills for the trash compactor more than paid for the baler rental. There was also a labor cost reduction in overtime to clean up cardboard as the waste is put into the baler as it is brought back, thereby reducing handling required. The availability of the baler in the area were most of the waste generation of cardboard comes from reduces the amount of labor that would be required to carry the waste cardboard to the trash compactor located outside and at the other end of the building.

#### The Pollution Prevented

There were 34.52 tons of cardboard and mixed papers recycled in 2001. An estimated 50.4 tons of cardboard and mixed paper are projected for 2002.

#### *It Just Keeps Getting Better*